



LAST DRAFT.
ADDRESS BY MR.J.H.A. EMAN
PRIME MINISTER OF ARUBA
AT THE SYMPOSIUM OF
ARUBA, PART OF THE CARIBBEAN"
HELD AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY,
SEPTEMBER 8, 1987.

MR.CHAIRMAN, YOUR EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
MITCHELL, INVITED GUESTS, CITIZENS OF ARUBA,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IT IS WITH GREAT
PLEASURE THAT I PARTICIPATE THIS EVENING AT
THIS SYMPOSIUM. THE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS EVENT
COULD NOT BE BETTER, SINCE FOR QUITE SOME TIME
NOW WE FELT THE NEED TO CONVEY OUR APPROACH TO
THE REGION.

IT IS A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO PRESENT OUR
VIEWS ON OUR APPROACH TO THE REGION, IN FRONT
OF MY COLLEAGUE FROM ST. VINCENT,ARUBA AND
ST.VINCENT SHARE A COMMON BELIEF IN FREEDOM,
JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY AND COOPERATION.

SINCE JANUARY FIRST, 1986, ARUBA BECAME A
SEPARATE ENTITY WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS. THIS NEW POLITICAL STATUS ENABLE
THE GOVERNMENT OF ARUBA TO DEFINE AND IMPLEMEN
SOCIAL, CULTURAL, FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND
MONETARY POLICIES ON ITS OWN.THIS FULL
SELF-GOVERNING STATUS WHICH ARUBA ACQUIRED,
ALSO ENABLES ARUBA - WITH THE CONSENT OF THE
KINGDOM GOVERNMENT - TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY THOSE PERTAINING TO THE REGION. THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM PARTNERS, ENABLES US TO WORK OUT A RATIONAL AND SYSTEMATIC APPROACH IN DEVELOPING OUR OWN INTERNATIONAL IDENTITY AND RELATIONS.

ARUBA, PART OF THE CARIBBEAN, IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS SYMPOSIUM. TO UNDERSTAND ARUBA'S THINKING AND FEELINGS ABOUT AND TOWARDS OUR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, IT IS IMPORTANT TO GIVE A SHORT EXPLANATION OF THE STRUGGLE THAT ARUBA WAGED EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY.

THE ARUBANS BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE OF EVERY COUNTRY TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES; THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WHEN A CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM IS FORCED UPON A COUNTRY - IT MAY SOMETIMES TAKE A LONG TIME - BUT SOONER OR LATER THE PEOPLE WILL RISE AND FIGHT FOR THEIR THEIR NATURAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

ARUBA FOUGHT FOR THE FREEDOM WE NOW HAVE. WE ARE OF THE OPINION, EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT SOUND CONTRADICTORY, THAT IT IS ONLY WHEN WE CAN ACT BASED ON FREEDOM AND OUT OF FREE WILL,



THAT A STRONG AND LASTING COOPERATION WITH
OTHER COUNTRIES BECOMES POSSIBLE.

NOW THAT ARUBA CAN ACT OUT OF FREE WILL , WE
WILL SEE SOON A NEW FORM OF COOPERATION WITH
THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES; WE WILL SEE A NEW
STRONG RELATIONSHIP, BECAUSE IN FREEDOM WE HAVE
REALIZED THAT WE NEED EACH OTHER, IN FREEDOM WE
HAVE REALIZED THAT TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER. IT
HAPPENED WITH THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND
ARUBA; IT HAPPENED WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN
THE CARIBBEAN; IT HAPPENED IN EUROPE AND WITH
THE UNITED STATES. SOMETIMES BIG AND CRUEL WARS
FOR FREEDOM ENGENDERED SMALL OR BIG COUNTRIES.
IT IS ALSO A FACT OF HISTORY THAT AFTER THESE
WARS WE SEE A DEVELOPMENT OF GROWING BACK
TOWARDS BIGGER ENTITIES. THE E.E.C. IS AN
EXAMPLE; THE UNITED STATES IS AN EXAMPLE; AND
NOW WE HEARD TONIGHT THAT THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING
EASTERN CARIBBEAN ARE STRUGGLING TO UNITE - AND
IF WE UNDERSTAND WELL - EVEN TO UNITE UNDER ONE
NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

ARUBA AS A SMALL COUNTRY, ONE YEAR AND EIGHT
MONTHS AGO, AND UNDERGOING A VERY SEVERE
CRISIS, LOOKED AT THE WORLD, NORTH AND SOUTH,
EAST AND WEST. AND ALL WE SAW WERE HIGH WALLS,
BIG BARRIERS. IN THE PAST ALL OF US LOOKED WITH



GREAT ANTICIPATION UPON THE AMERICAN CBI POLICY. A POLICY WHICH SOUGHT TO SERVE AS A BRIDGE TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN SO MANY COUNTRIES WITHIN THE REGION. HOWEVER, REALISM REPLACED IDEALISM WHEN THE CBI WAS ADJUSTED TO ACCOMODATE DOMESTIC AMERICAN INTERESTS. THIS WAS ALSO TRUE WITH OUR FRIENDS TO THE SOUTH.

BUT BEFORE WE LOOK AT OUR BIG FRIENDS FOR HELP WE MUST FIRST TAKE A LONG AND HARD LOOK AT OURSELVES, AND THIS LOOK MUST BOTH BE HONEST AS WELL AS HARD. AND AS WE LOOK WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE BARRIERS THAT SEPARATE US. THAT IS ONE REASON I AM GRATEFUL TO MY FRIEND OF ST. VINCENT FOR ALL THE WORK HE HAS DONE TO REMOVE THOSE BARRIERS, FOR THEY ARE TRULY BARRIERS TO PROGRESS, NOT BARRIERS TO MARKETS.

WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE TO BE OPEN FOR EACH OTHER AND WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENIFIT OF US ALL. WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE TO BUILD BRIDGES ACROSS THE SEA THAT HAS SEPARATED US FROM THE REST OF THE CARIBBEAN. THEY WILL BE BRIDGES OF INCREASED TRADE, OF IDEAS, AND OF VISITORS.

I WILL SAY HERE AND NOW, THAT ARUBA WILL BE READY FOR A DECLARATION OF COOPERATION, THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE REGION THE



WAYS AND MEANS OF FORMING A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP.

WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, WE STARTED TO LOOK AT THE REGION AS OUR NATURAL PARTNERS. BEING OUR CLOSEST NEIGHBORS WE SHARE A GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY THAT OBVIOUSLY INFLUENCES THE GEOPOLITICS, STRATEGY AND TACTICS AS WELL AS THE PERSPECTIVE OF BUILDING A LASTING COOPERATION WITH THE REGION. WHAT HAPPENS IN THE REGION CLEARLY AFFECTS OUR OPPORTUNITIES IN SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM. WE KNOW TOO WELL THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN CAPITAL RESOURCES, NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNED ECONOMIC POLICY, PARTIALLY DUE TO THE PERCEPTION OF A HIGH-RISK AREA IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKET.

THIS GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY COMPOUNDED BY OUR HISTORICAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENGENDERED A MORE PROFOUND LEVEL OF INTEREST IN OUR REGION, WHICH HAS TO DO WITH PEOPLE. THIS INTEREST IS ROOTED IN THE HISTORY OF LAGO. VERA GREEN IN MIGRANTS IN ARUBA, ABLELY DESCRIBES THE PRESENCE AND CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CULTURE, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM ST.VINCENT, TRINIDAD, GRENADA, DOMINICA, ST KITTS, NEVIS, ANGUILLA, CARIACOU,



BARBADOS AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WHEN YOU VISIT SOME OF THESE ISLANDS, SOMEONE CERTAINLY WOULD COME FORWARD TO MENTION A RELATIVE OR ACQUAINTANCE IN ARUBA.

THE PRESENCE AND CONTINUATION OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICS ALSO AFFORDS A BASIS FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION. IT IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO FORGE GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, SINCE THEY ARE MORE STABLE, MORE PREDICTABLE AND MORE RESPECTFUL OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER CORE VALUES CENTRAL TO US.

BUT PERHAPS WHAT HAS BEEN VERY CRUCIAL TO OUR REALIZATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REGION TO OUR INTERESTS WAS THAT WE SHARE, DESPITE SIMILAR ECONOMIC STRUCTURES AND HENCE NATURAL COMPETITION, SOME CLEAR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS. UNLIKE CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PAST, WE NOW KNOW THAT WE CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, TAP IMPORTANT TOURIST MARKETS, SUCH AS JAPAN AND EUROPE, ON OUR OWN, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN DO MUCH BETTER. WE KNOW THAT WE CAN GET THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUR STUDENTS, BUT ONLY TOGETHER WE CAN PASS THIS BILL. WE KNOW THAT WE CAN LAUNCH A NATIONAL WAR AGAINST DRUGS, BUT ONLY TOGETHER



WITHIN A LARGER FRAME WITH OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WE CAN PUT A HALT TO THIS CREEPING THREAT TO OUR CHILDREN.

BASED ON THESE INTERESTS WE HAVE BEEN REACHING OUT TO THE REGION IN A PRAGMATIC AND NO-NONSENSE APPROACH. WE HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON AREAS WHERE WE FEEL THAT WE CLEARLY SHARE A COMMON INTEREST WITH THE REGION. AREAS SUCH AS TOURISM, EDUCATION, INFORMATION, DRUGS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LASTING COOPERATION AND TRUST AMONG US. WE BELIEVE THAT COOPERATION WILL HAVE ITS EFFECTS ONLY IF WE ARE GOAL-ORIENTED AND CONCRETE PROJECT MINDED.

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR FUTURE LIES IN THE HANDS OF OUR COUNTRYMEN AND OUR CARIBBEAN COLLEAGUES. OUR FUTURE LIES WITH OUR ABILITY AND DESIRE TO PULL TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION. THIS FUTURE MUST AND WILL BE BUILD ON A FOUNDATION OF COMUNICATION AND EDUCATION.

COMMUNICATIONS BRINGING OUR WORLD CLOSER TOGETHER AND EDUCATION TO BRING OUR CHILDREN INTO THE FUTURE. THAT'S WHY FOURTY % OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT AID RECEIVED FROM THE E.E.C., WITHIN THE FRAME-WORK OF THE SIXTH



EDF, HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO REGIONAL PROJECTS,
ESPECIALLY TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION.

SEVERAL EAXAMPLES WILL ILLUSTRATE MY
POINT. EARLY LAST AUGUST WE HOSTED CARIBSON,
A CULTURAL MANIFESTATION OF THE REGION TO
JAPAN. THIS PROJECT WAS DURING SIXTEEN HOURS
LIVELY TELEVISED TO THE JAPANESE
AUDIENCE.WHEREAS WE KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING
THAT THIS PROJECT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE ARUBAN
EFFORTS TO GET THE JAPANESE ATTENTION FOR
TOURIST AND INVESTMENT REASONS, WE ALSO
REALIZED THAT THE IMPACT OF THIS PROJECT WOULD
DEPEND ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REGION.
THEREFORE WE ACTIVELY APPROACHED THE COUNTRIES
IN THE REGION TO CONVINCE THEM OF THIS GREAT
OPPORTUNITY. BY PARTICIPATING THEY WOULD NOT
ONLY HELP ARUBA, BUT IN THE PROCESS THEY WOULD
HELP THEMSELVES. THIS NEW APPROACH IN SHARING
COSTS AN BENEFITS IN MARKETING, AMONG OTHER,
TOURIST, HAS ALSO BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN OUR
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PUERTO RICO,

ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE EUROPEAN MARKET.
THE PARADOX OF THESE EFFORTS TOWARD A NEW ERA
OF COMPETITIVENESS IS THAT THE RISING
COMPETITION PRESSURES ON US AND OUR OPPONNNENTS
HAVE SENT US ALL LOOKING FOR HELP FROM ONE



ANOTHER, ENTERING NEW MARKETS, SHARING SOME RISKS OF MAJOR VENTURES. THESE ARE CLEARLY SOME INNOVATIVE NEW FORMS OF COOPERATIVE ACTIONS, SIMILAR TO THOSE OCCURRING AMONG INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR FIRMS.

ON MARCH 26, 1987, A SENATE BILL 851 WAS INTRODUCED, CALLING FOR CONGRESS TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TALENTED, ECONOMICALLY DESERVING STUDENTS FROM THE CARIBBEAN BASIN TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES. THE ARUBA GOVERNMENT SINCE JULY 1986 WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE WASHINGTON OF THE NEED FOR SUCH A PROGRAM FOR THE STUDENTS OF ARUBA AND THE CARIBBEAN. SINCE ARUBA WAS TOTALLY EXCLUDED FROM ALL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH INCOME PER CAPITA, AND SINCE EDUCATION IS A HIGH PRIORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES HAVE BEEN EXPLORED TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. WE KNEW IN THE REGION THAT SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS BARBADOS, WERE IN A SIMILAR POSITION AS OURS, AND THEREFORE IN THEIR INTEREST TO SUPPORT THIS BILL. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAVE CONTACTED ALMOST ALL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE REACTION RECEIVED SO FAR.



ANOTHER AREA WHERE GREATER FORMS OF COOPERATION IS NEEDED IS IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS. WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE INITIATIVES OF SOME MEMBERS OF OUR PRIVATE SECTOR TO BRING ABOUT TWO PROJECTS WITH EXCITING NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR ARUBA AND THE REGION. THE CARIBBEAN SUPER STATION LINKS ARUBA DIRECTLY WITH THE REGION THROUGH SATELLITE AND A PROCESS IS UNDER WAY TO DEVISE A PROJECT OF EXCHANGE OF SPECIFIC CULTURAL MATERIAL WHICH PROVIDES A BASIS FOR IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. OUR MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAS RECENTLY CONVEYED TO THE CARIBBEAN LIBRARIAN AND UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AT THE ACURIL CONFERENCE OUR INTEREST TO VIGOROUSLY PURSUE IN UNISON WITH OUR NEIGHBORS SOME CONCRETE PROJECTS IN THIS RESPECT. ACURIL WAS UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF ARUBA. FURTHERMORE, THE NEW ARUBAN AIR TRANSPORTATION, ILPO ARUBA CARGO, COULD SERVE AS AN IMPORTANT CARGO TRANSPORTATION DEVICE TO FEED THE REGIONAL CARGO TO THE U.S., LATIN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN MARKETS. OBVIOUSLY IT COULD ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO INTRAREGIONAL TRADE.

NOT ONLY ARE WE ENHANCING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN A SYSTEMATIC AND RATIONAL APPROACH, BUT WE ARE ALSO SUPPORTING AND TAKING PART IN MOST



REGIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CARIBBEAN
DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE, UNESCO
AND THE ILO. OUR PARTICIPATION IN THESE
ORGANIZATIONS FACILITATES A MORE COORDINATED
APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN
SUBREGION. ARUBA IS AN OBSERVER OF THE CDCC
AND LOOKS FORWARD TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN NEXT YEAR. NEXT OCTOBER
ARUBA WILL BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF UNESCO
WHICH OBVIOUSLY WILL ENABLE US TO FULLY
PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL SUBORGANS OF
UNESCO, SUCH AS CARNEID. ARUBA RECENTLY HOSTED
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CTC. ARUBA HAS
BEEN ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING THE DUTCH
INITIATIVES TO ALLOCATE MORE FINANCIAL
RESOURCES TO REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS
THE CDCC, IN ORDER TO GIVE MORE VITALITY TO THE
SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO RECAPITULATE IN BRIEF.
THE MORE FREQUENT VISITS OF REGIONAL LEADERS,
PRIME MINISTERS, FOREIGN MINISTERS,
AMBASSADORS; LEADERS OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS,
SUCH AS CDCC, UNESCO, ILO, PAHO, THE GRADUAL
STRENGTHENING OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ST.VINCENT,
PUERTO RICO, VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, TRINIDAD,
BARBADOS; THE BROADENING AND DEEPENING OF OUR



PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES; THE SUCCESS OF CARIBSON AND CTC CONFERENCE; THE GROWING SUPPORT OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO THE SCHOLARSHIP-PROGRAM; MY RECENT TRIPS TO VENEZUELA, PUERTO RICO, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC; VISITS OF OTHER CABINET MEMBERS TO BARBADOS, MARTINIQUE AND COLOMBIA; ALL THESE EVENTS INDICATE THAT ARUBA'S ACTIVIST APPROACH IS CLEARLY ON THE MOVE AND THAT ARUBA MOST DEFINITELY IS ON THE MAP AND THE AGENDA OF MOST REGIONAL COUNTRIES. WE NEED THE REGION AS THE REGION NEEDS US. WE HAVE BENIFITS IN OUR RELATION WITH THE REGION AS THE REGION WILL BENEFIT FROM OUR RELATION. WE KNOW THAT WE CANNOT ACHIEVE THE DESIGNED GOALS ON OUR OWN.

OUR HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TIES WITH BOTH THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, OUR MULTILENGUALISM, OUR INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF CONTACTS, OUR WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO INTENSIFY OUR RELATIONS IN THE REGION, ALL THESE ELEMENTS PROVIDE A UNIQUE SET OF CIRCUNSTANCES THAT CAN ALLOW ARUBA TO PLAY THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OF BRIDGE BETWEEN THESE TWO REGIONS, AS THE MISSING LINK FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING.

OUR SUCCESS ABROAD DEPENDS ON OUR SUCCESS AT HOME. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT OUR STRENGTH COMES



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FROM EDUCATION, THE SATISFACTION AND PRIDE OF
OUR PEOPLE. FOR THIS REASON I AM LOOKING THE
FUTURE WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE.

THANK YOU.